

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9163

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 19639

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, LA, CB, VN, VS

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ON THE U.S. PRESENCE AND INDO-
CHINA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA GAVE
A NEWS CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 16. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM AN INFORMAL USIS TRANSLATION OF CHARUNPHAN'S REMARKS ON
THE U.S. PRESENCE AND INDOCHINA:

BEGIN EXCERPTS

"REPORTER: WHEN WILL ANOTHER REVIEW BE HELD FOR FURTHER WITH
DRAWALS OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES?

CHARUNPHAN: AFTER DECEMBER 31.

REPORTER: THERE IS A REPORT THAT WITHDRAWALS OF TROOPS MIGHT
BE HALTED, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER WITHDRAWALS IN
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THE FUTURE.

CHARUNPHAN: WHEREVER DID YOU GET THAT REPORT?

REPORTER: HOW TRUE IS IT?

CHARUNPHAN: THAT DEPENDS ON THE SITUATION. AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, WE WILL CONTINUE PLANS BUT TO WHAT EXTENT THEY WILL BE CARRIED OUT DEPENDS ON THE SITUATION IN GENERAL IN THIS REGION.

REPORTER: WHAT IS OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AT PRESENT?

CHARUNPHAN: I FEEL THAT THE SITUATION IS SLIGHTLY IMPROVED, BECAUSE DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO LAOS I FELT THAT BETTER UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN CREATED BETWEEN FACTIONS IN THAT COUNTRY, THEREFORE, IF LAOS IS ABLE TO REMAIN UNITED UNDER A COALITION GOVERNMENT, AS AT PRESENT, THE PEACE AND ORDER CREATED IN THAT COUNTRY WILL BE A GOOD OMEN AND SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THE WORLD. FURTHERMORE, WE FEEL HOPE FOR CAMBODIA. WE PLAYED A PART WITH ASEAN IN INTRODUCING A MOTION IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH HAS OBTAINED RESULTS IN THE FORM OF A/RESOLUTION FOR ALL FACTIONS IN CAMBODIA TO TURN TOWARD ONE ANOTHER AND HOLD TALKS IN ORDER TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ABOLISHING THE SYSTEM OF LEADERSHIP IN THE COUNTRY, BUT WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT OUR BUSINESS TO SPECIFY WHICH LEADER SHOULD BE ABOLISHED. THAT IS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS AT ALL. WHAT WE DESIRE IS TO SEE ACTIONS OR ACTIVITIES CARRIED ON THAT WILL LEAD TO UNITY, BASED ON THE METHOD OF TURNING TOWARD ONE ANOTHER AND HOLDING TALKS FOR RECONCILIATION, SIMILAR TO THE METHOD USED IN LAOS WHICH HAS ACHIEVED SUCCESS ALREADY. SHOULD IT BE ABLE TO TAKE SUCH ACTION, IT WOULD BE ANOTHER GOOD OMEN IN ANOTHER COUNTRY FOR US. IT, HOWEVER, DEPENDS ON CAMBODIA ITSELF, BECAUSE AS WE HAVE SAID ALREADY WE WISH TO SEE CAMBODIANS REACH AGREEMENT THEMSELVES WITH NO OTHER COUNTRY INTERFERING IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER. SHOULD ALL FACTIONS IN CAMBODIA TURN TOWARD ONE ANOTHER AND HOLD TALKS, I BELIEVE THIS WOULD AT LEAST PAVE THE WAY FOR SOME AGREEMENT TO BE FOUND. BUT WHETHER SUCCESS COULD BE ACHIEVED, AS IN LAOS, UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD DEPEND ON RESULTS OF TALKS HELD. FROM ANOTHER ANGLE, CONCERNING NORTH VIETNAM, IT CAN BE SEEN THAT HANOI'S ATTITUDE IS NOT TOO ADAMANT AND UNCOMPROMISING. A REPORT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS ALREADY ON NORTH VIETNAM'S ACTION IN SENDING A LETTER TO US, WHICH WE ARE STUDYING AT PRESENT.

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES WHICH

WILL CONTINUE TO BE STATIONED HERE? WILL THEY REMAIN HERE BECAUSE OF THE SITUATION OUTSIDE OUR COUNTRY, AS WELL AS BECAUSE OF THE INTERNAL SITUATION?

CHARUNPHAN: THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES HERE DIRECTLY CONCERNS INDOCHINA, AND THIS IS A SUBJECT ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT AND EXPLANATIONS ALREADY. IT STATED THAT AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES ARE STILL USING OUR BASES, SUCH AS IN U TAPAO, BECAUSE IT CONCERNS INDOCHINA DIRECTLY, AND WE WISH TO SEE THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN PARIS ACHIEVE RESULTS WHICH WILL RESTORE LASTING PEACE IN INDOCHINA. THEREFORE, IF AND WHEN LASTING PEACE IS RESTORED TO COUNTRIES IN INDOCHINA -- WHICH IS APT TO BE CALLED PEACE AND NEUTRALITY -- AND WHEN THIS TARGET IS ACHIEVED, THEN THE NECESSITY FOR AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES TO CONTINUE REMAINING HERE WILL BE ENDED.

REPORTER: HAVE YOU MADE ANY ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION YET IN ORDER TO CONSIDER FURTHER WITHDRAWALS OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCE?

CHARUNPHAN: AFTER DECEMBER 31, THE TIME LIMIT, IS REACHED, WE WILL REVIEW THE SITUATION AND TALKS SHOULD BE STARTED AGAIN. BUT THE SITUATION WILL HAVE TO BE ASSESSED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT NECESSITY THERE MIGHT BE. THIS, HOWEVER, IS A SUBJECT MAINLY CONCERNING THE MILITARY, BUT MEETINGS WILL HAVE TO BE HELD AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BECAUSE IT HAS TO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES TAKING PART IN THE TALKS.

REPORTER: DOES THE STATEMENT YOU MADE JUST NOW MEAN THAT AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES IN U TAPAO WILL BE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LAST UNITS REMAINING IN THAILAND?

CHARUNPHAN: THE REASON WHY I MENTIONED U TAPAO BY NAME WAS THAT IT IS A BASE WHICH IS ON THE TIP OF EVERY-BODY'S TONGUE ALL THE TIME, THUS MAKING IT APPEAR AS IF IT WERE A BASE OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE AMONG ALL BASES. AT PRESENT 2-3 BASES HAVE BEEN CLOSED DOWN ALREADY. WHEN THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NECESSITY FOR THEIR PRESENCE, AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES WILL NOT HAVE TO CONTINUE REMAINING HERE.

REPORTER: HAS THIS SUBJECT BEEN BROUGHT UP FOR CONSULTATION IN A CABINET MEETING RECENTLY?

CHARUNPHAN: WHAT SUBJECT?

REPORTER: THE SUBJECT OF WITHDRAWALS OF AMERICAN MILITARY
FORCES.

CHARUNPHAN: NOT YET. END EXCERPTS.
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